

Message Text

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46

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9473

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3120

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, LE, US, XF

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 83443, (B) LONDON 05375

1. DATT ESTIMATES THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY WHICH RETAIN SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE AND ARE LOYAL TO THE CHRISTIAN SIDE AMOUNT TO NO MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE AIRFORCE AND THE NAVY WHICH REMAIN RELATIVELY INTACT; THE NAVY IN ITS NORMAL BASE AT KASLIK (LESS ITS LANDING CRAFT WHICH WAS DAMAGED AND CAPTURED BY THE LEFISTIS) AND THE AIR FORCE ON ITS TWO BASES AT RAYAK AND KLEIAT. THE AIR FORCE, HOWEVER, IS NEUTRALIZED BY THE PRESENCE OF SAIQA AND/OR PLA TROOPS AT BOTH BASES.

2. AS FOR THE MATERIAL ASSETS OF THE ARMY, DATT ESTIMATES THAT CHRISTIANS RETAIN ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE TANKS, ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE ARTILLERY, ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF
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THE AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY, AND PERHAPS 50 PERCENT OF THE

REMAINING COMBAT VEHICLES SUCH AS ARMORED CARS AND PERSONNEL CARRIERS, OF THE JEEPS AND TRUCKS AND OTHER NON-TACTICAL TRANSPORT THE CHRISTIANS PROBABLY HAVE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.
BROWN

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